

## WELFARE-TO-WORK PROGRAM NOTICE

### **WHAT WELFARE-TO-WORK MEANS TO YOU**

- Welfare-to-Work can teach, train and counsel you to help you find a job.
- Some of the things Welfare-to-Work can do for you are:
  - Show you how to look for a job.
  - Help you with educational or vocational/on-the-job training and teach you basic reading, math and English.
  - Help you get work experience.
- Welfare-to-Work will help you arrange and pay for supportive services like child care, transportation, and other costs such as special tools or clothing you need to take a job. You may get advance payments if you need them. You won't have to use your cash aid to pay for supportive services.
- Welfare-to-Work will tell you about the available kinds of child care and where to find child care.

### **WHEN YOU MUST BE IN WELFARE-TO-WORK**

- You must be in Welfare-to-Work if you get cash aid under the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program and you are not excused (exempt) from participating.
- You don't have to be in Welfare-to-Work if you are exempt. If you are required to participate in the Welfare-To-Work Teen Parent program, many of these exemptions will not apply to you. For more information, contact your eligibility worker or Welfare-To-Work worker. You are exempt if you are:
  - Under 16 years old.
  - 16, 17 or 18 years old and in high school or adult school full time unless you go to school as part of your Welfare-to-Work plan.
  - The nonparent relative caretaker of a child who is a dependent or ward of the court, or a child at risk of being placed in foster care.
  - Staying home to take care of someone in the household who can't take care of him/herself if that keeps you from working or participating in a Welfare-to-Work activity on a regular basis.
  - A parent or caretaker relative of a child six months old or under (or, depending on the county, for a child 12 weeks old or under or for a child 12 months old or under). Ask your worker how young your child has to be for you to be exempt. This exemption is available only once. BUT if you are a teen parent who is required to participate in the Welfare-to-Work Teen parent program, you must participate no matter how old your child is, unless you have another reason to be exempt.
  - Physically or mentally unable to work or participate in a Welfare-to-Work activity on a regular basis for at least 30 calendar days.
  - 60 years old or older.
  - Pregnant and a doctor states that you cannot work or participate in Welfare-to-Work activities.
  - A parent or caretaker relative with a child 12 to 23 months of age, or with two children under six years of age.

- If you are a person who has no legal right to work in the United States, you will be excused from Welfare-to-Work.

If you do not meet any of the listed reasons for being exempt from Welfare-to-Work, you may be required to go to Welfare-to-Work. If you are required to go, you will get a notice that tells you when your first appointment will be.

- If you believe that you have a good reason for not participating, you should ask your worker to give you a form (WTW 27) to use to make your request to be exempt from Welfare-to-Work. You will be told by the county whether you can be exempt from Welfare-to-Work or are required to participate.
- Even if you don't have to be in Welfare-to-Work, you can ask to participate and you will be told if you can.

### **IF YOU DO NOT DO WHAT WELFARE-TO-WORK REQUIRES**

- If you are required to be in Welfare-to-Work:
  - You will have a chance to say why you did not do what you were required to do.
  - If you do not have a good reason, and you will not do what Welfare-to-Work requires to fix the problem, your cash aid will be lowered.
- If you are not required to be in Welfare-to-Work, but you asked to be in Welfare-to-Work (volunteer):
  - You will have a chance to say why you did not do what was asked.
  - If you do not have a good reason and you are not willing to do what Welfare-to-Work requires to fix the problem, your cash aid will not be lowered, but you may not be allowed back in Welfare-to-Work for a period of time.

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When you get a job and go off aid, the county may be able to continue to pay for supportive services for up to the first 12 months after you have started a job if you need the services to keep your job and you cannot get the supportive services costs from somewhere else. You may also be able to get transitional Medi-Cal for 12 months.

You have the right to ask for services like child care, transportation, or other service provided by Welfare-to-Work. You may ask your worker by phone or in person, or you may ask in writing.

You have the right to ask for a state hearing if you disagree with any of the decisions made by the county about participating in Welfare-to-Work.

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